

SECCS Second Edition

The State Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems (SECCS) Project continues to travel the state and discover exciting programs that are integrating services for children birth to five in California. Programs, communities and individuals have embraced the project and invited me to share what SECCS plans to do over the next year.

By the end of October, a fantastic group of folks will be identified as the Steering Committee for this project. In the meantime, with the support and encouragement of Dr. Abbey Alkon at the University of California at San Francisco and Ellen Buchanan at the California State Department of Health Services mountains of data and examples of best practices have been collected and are being organized as part of the Needs Assessment process. The generous sharing of information regarding existing programs on how to integrate services for children birth to 5 and their families continue to build the foundation for the next twelve months of data gathering. By October of 2005, the goal is to have a Strategic Plan for California.

The project has added additional staff who is working on different aspects of the data gathering process. Stephanie Roberson, MSW is developing the environmental scan and implementing focus groups. Holly Coyle is doing an independent study from Cal State Sacramento, and Kim To from UC San Francisco is doing data analysis.

Focus groups have been conducted with I CARE in Los Angeles and are scheduled for the First 5 Executive Directors, the Children's Roundtable, the Kern County Network for Children and the San Benito First Five staff. If you have a group that would be interested in an overview of the SECCS Project or participation in a focus group, please contact me.

If you are **not** interested in receiving future updates from the SECCS project, please email me back and I will remove your name. On the other hand, if you are interested in adding additional folks you think would benefit from the updates, please let me know and I will add their names. Your comments and suggestions are appreciated. Please feel free to correspond with me by email wewayne@kern.org or telephone 916 552-8742 or 661 204-8840.

Visit the SECCS website at <http://www.mch.dhs.ca.gov/programs/seccs/seccsfacts.htm>

Below is a description of the second of many programs that demonstrate Best Practices of Early Childhood Comprehensive Services in California:

THE SECOND EXCITING PROJECT TO HIGHLIGHT, IN THE FIELD OF EARLY CHILDHOOD COMPREHENSIVE SERVICES, IS ...

YOLO HEALTH ALLIANCE (YHA). . .

a public private partnership model, successful at solving community health problems with high quality care.

The Alliance was founded on a creative risk-sharing model between Sutter Davis Hospital, CommuniCare Health Centers, Sutter West Medical Group and Yolo County.

Because of YHA's unique approach to the delivery of services, indigent visits to the emergency rooms have been reduced from 879 to 160, medical expenses per client from \$1,260 to \$1,118 and patient complaints from 360 to nine. The program saved Yolo County more than \$1 million dollars in its first year. YHA offers a model of how the public and private sectors can work together to improve access to health care for all in their communities.

CommuniCare, one of the partners of YHA offers a full spectrum of services to children birth to five and their families, including:

- ❖ Pediatric Care
- ❖ Immunization Coordination - tracking compliance and follow up
- ❖ Perinatal Day Treatment for women in the substance recovery program with children birth to 4 years, including an on site Child Care Program offering supervised visitation
- ❖ Early Childhood Assessment and Parent-Child Therapy Services for caregivers and children 0 - 5.
- ❖ Home Visiting Services for at risk families, referred by the Perinatal Team.
- ❖ Dental Education and Services for families with children 0 to 5. Dental education outreach occurs through the perinatal program and home visiting programs
- ❖ Smile Savers Dental Program - outreach services to children and community service settings
- ❖ Perinatal Services group centering visits where women have a group perinatal appointment that includes one on one time with a midwife. Women participate in their own care by obtaining and charting their routine tests and measures.
- ❖ Adjunct services including social work, child birth education, health education, infant massage classes for postpartum women and their babies.